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SUBJ: CHINESE SUPPORT STAFF, GEN CHI HAOTIAN VISIT (U)

(U) SUMMARY: The Ministry of National Defense (MND) primarily provides planning, budget, manpower and, especially, foreign liaison support for the People's Liberation Army. The Foreign Affairs Bureau satisfies this last function.

(U) KEY POINTS

- * (U) MND does not formulate policy or direct the tactical forces
- * (U) FAB is the PLA's link to foreign militaries
- * (U) FAB Americas and Oceania Division handles relations with US military
- * (U) FAB staff officers serve as Beijing's "barbarian handlers"
- * (U) FAB staff officers spend their entire career in the FAB

(U)
(S) DISCUSSION

- * (U)
(S) The Ministry of National Defense structurally is a minor player in the PRC military
 - ** Primary function is to maintain beneficial ties with foreign defense attaches and military organizations
 - ** MND contains a Foreign Affairs Bureau, three divisions and the UN military delegation

- * (U)
(S) Support staff's major responsibility is to prevent senior officers from making mistakes

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ENCLOSURE (2)
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